

## **STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS COUNTY OF NEWPORT**

The Town Council of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Joint Workshop with the School Committee and the Budget Committee on Thursday, the 17th day of October 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Tiverton High School Library, 100 North Brayton Road.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councilor President Roderick, Councilor Chabot, Councilor Gerlach, and Councilor Pelletier .Vice-President deMedeiros, Councilor Arruda and Councilor Lambert were absent.

Town Administrator James Goncalo was also present. Town Clerk Nancy Mello was absent.

Budget Committee members present – Chair David Perry, Laura Epke, Joseph Sousa and Donna Edwards.

School Committee members present – Chairperson Sally Black, Carol Herrmann and Jerome Larkin.

### **1. Call To Order**

Budget Committee Chair Dave Perry called the Workshop to order at 6:45 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **Discussion with the Tiverton School Committee and the Tiverton Budget Committee of 2013/2014 Budget and 2014/2015 Budget**

Budget Committee (BC) Chair David Perry called the workshop to order, explained workshop is for gathering information, last time heard from the Town Council (TC), looking to get information on the schools. School Superintendent William Rearick explained the new Wastewater system was up and running came in at \$680K projected. The School Committee (SC) is reviewing an RFP for a Facilities Study for the Middle School and High School (HS). Handed out a one page Facilities Upgrade wish list for the schools for three FY's to 2017. Estimate \$900K to replace two boilers at the HS, the study will prioritize and list item cost. If the RFP is approved should seek bids by end of November. Will probably take until the end of the budget cycle. Joseph Sousa asked about a vendor's list, possibility of multiple bids on each item. Mr. Rearick explained that would come after, just looking for a facilities study first, then go out to bid for the items, the study is a blueprint. Want an independent vendor to conduct the study, make recommendations. Mr. Rearick noted the upgrade list, looking for an alarm, security area for the HS, as recommended by Chief Blakey. Hope to do some before the budget cycle. Chair Perry questioned the Ft. Barton (FB) upgrade, install A/C in the library. Mr. Rearick looking into why it wasn't installed at the time, facilities study will address. The other document handed out the Technology Hardware Upgrade Plan was for the same FY's. Have not acted on any of these, the SC will be voting on the proposal to send to Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), have to apply then given a list of vendors, pick 3, get prices, pick options, send back to RIDE. Once Wi-Fi is put in all the schools, if the grant is awarded then look at that list. In some cases will need to replace old equipment, the SC will decide what to replace or buy new. Did not prioritize beyond the Wi-Fi.

Mr. Rearick explained not sure of test requirements, are coming next year. Ms. Epke noted will affect every community if not in the State budget, should be some attempt to put in. Mr. Rearick explained, was brought up to the commissioner, did bring to the attention of RIDE. Ms. Epke questioned the T/A on part of the budget. Looking to formally submit the Capital Plan to the Council later this month relative to the budget, will be looking for a ladder truck, have larger homes many are two stories, a safety issue. Looking for an addition to the Police Station, Capital plan includes everything the department heads feel are necessary. Mr. Sousa would like to see some savings. T/A Goncalo noted, this was also looking to the future. Mr. Sousa noted no room in the North end for a ladder truck. T/A Goncalo explained it will come to the BC after the TC, was not anticipating new hires. Fire Department vehicles are included in the five year plan. President Roderick noted, have to look to the future and safety of the Town. Mr. Sousa suggested looking at mutual aid. Ms. Epke noted the BC needs a basis to look at to prioritize, what to recommend. Like to have a good Capital plan from the Town and the School. Mr. Rearick noted the \$1.6 million saved by collaborating with other towns. A regional high school

could cost the Town \$40 million. Ms. Epke discussed the library bond, in 2015 would be \$45,000; FY16 would be the start of the bond, questioned if a plan had been worked out yet. T/A Goncalo explained that was the Library Trustees responsibility. Ms. Epke discussed the Stone Bridge project, a \$2.3 million dollar grant; if the cost is exceeded does the Town have to pay? T/A Goncalo explained the current cost estimate includes 15% contingency, 10% mobilization, construction in the spring of 2015. The Town Planner and T/A will be closely watching. Mr. Sousa requested from DPW Director Berlucchi a list of the number of miles to address for paving streets. Ms. Epke cited the importance of that as an addition to the Capital plan, looking for a list of streets and the conditions. T/A Goncalo noted, that was not in the Capital plan at this point, explained the paving account has been used for guardrails, maintenance of roads, striping, etc. Not broken down, would be a guess. T/A Goncalo was just notified the bridge on Pond Bridge Road was in need of repair, capacity is going to be lowered, DPW estimates \$125K. Chairman Perry asked about cuts to the School funding, Mr. Rearick explained was too early in the budget cycle. Doug Fiore, School Finance Manager, explained the formula changes every year, funds are released in late December.

Ms. Epke noted the new accounting system; some items may be in different brackets, beneficial for the BC and TC to go through may be difficult to do comparisons, need a cross chart. T/A Goncalo explained, have a new Chart of Accounts, will forward to BC. Mr. Sousa questioned the status of the Community Center. T/A Goncalo explained, was still being used by the Wastewater Superintendent, some boards and commissions for meetings and to store tools. Do not have a plan to move anyone. Mr. Sousa complained the roof leaks, was still in good shape structurally. T/A Goncalo did have those funds in a prior budget; BC had volunteers do the roof. Ms. Epke noted, no time limit to sell Town buildings, was a resolution on the docket. President Roderick noted the need to be aware, charged with the health and safety of the Town, have to discuss. Ms. Epke noted the TC should advise what the Town needs; need to respect the BC role of what the taxpayers can afford. Chairman Perry wanted to see a flat number. President Roderick explained, there is a built in increase, doing everything to hold down cost, looking at needs. Chairman Perry noted, last year did a tremendous job with what was had. Ms. Epke gave kudos to Treasurer Denise Saurette for refinancing the TIF bond, saved some good money.

Councilor Roderick closed the workshop for the Council. Chair Dave Perry closed for Budget Committee.

Minutes compiled by Leona Cook, Clerk.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The workshop adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

**A True Copy.**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk